

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

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SUBJECT: BELGIAN RELATIONS WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

FOLLOWING NOTES ON RECENT AND EXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS
IN BELGIAN RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE
GLEANED FROM TALK WITH RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL.

1. USSR. EXPECTED VISIT OF AMBASSADOR ZORIN TO
BENELUX COUNTRIES JANUARY 14-18 DID NOT TAKE PLACE.
VISIT AS REQUESTED BY SOVIET EMBASSY HAD NO SPECIFIC
SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSE, AND BELGIANS HAVE YET TO RECEIVE
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ANY EXPLANATION FOR ZORIN'S FAILURE TO SHOW UP.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON PLANS TO VISIT MOSCOW IN LATE FEBRUARY FOR GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON, AND PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MAKE THE SAME TRIP DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JULY (FOLLOWING A TRIP PLANNED TO PEKING). THE TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION THAT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE USSR MAY BE SIGNED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1974 UNLESS IT AWAITS THE LEBURTON/VAN ELSLANDE TRIP.

2. USSR. THE BELGIAN-SOVIET CONSULAR AGREEMENT HAS YET TO BE RATIFIED BY ONE CHAMBER OF THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT. WHEN THIS ACTION IS TAKEN, THE BELGIANS WILL CEASE RESISTING SOVIET REQUESTS TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ANTWERP. THE NUMBER OF SOVIET OFFICIALS PERMITTED TO STAFF THE CONSULATE WILL BE LIMITED BY THE BELGIANS, WHO MOREOVER INTEND TO TELL THE RUSSIANS THAT THEIR EMBASSY STAFF WILL HAVE TO BE REDUCED BY THE SAME NUMBER OF OFFICIALS AS THOSE ASSIGNED TO ANTWERP. THE BELGIANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN LENINGRAD.

3. GDR. A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE BELGO-LUXEMBOURG ECONOMIC UNION WAS INITIALED LAST WEEK DURING THE VISIT OF A GDR DELEGATION LEAD BY HEINZ OPITZ. AS THEY HAD IN THE PAST (BRUSSELS 7032), THE EAST GERMANS SOUGHT A TRADE AGREEMENT AS WELL BUT WERE TURNED DOWN BY THE BELGIANS ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE NEGOTIABLE ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC. THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A JOINT COMMISSION TO MEET AT LEAST ONE TIME A YEAR, BUT FOREIGN OFFICE EXPECTS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO ENSUE.

4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK WILL VISIT BRUSSELS JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 2 AS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THERE IS AS YET NO SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENDA FOR THE TALKS.

5. YUGOSLAVIA. PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON VISITED YUGOSLAVIA "IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY" JANUARY 8-10 AND CONDUCTED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT TITO. THE PRIME MINISTER PARTICIPATED IN THE CEREMONY AT SKOPJE TWINNING THAT CITY WITH LEBURTON'S HOME TOWN OF WAREMME. LEBURTON'S TRIP WAS PRIMARILY A

GOODWILL VISIT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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